

Matthew Del Busto  
311 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE  
mdelbusto@indy.rr.com  
317-374-0054

OLMC 7th Grade  
Cun Lady of the, Carmel

### Courage, Sacrifice and Duty

Literally, a veteran is “a person of long service or experience in an occupation or office.” In my eyes, a veteran is a person who was willing to sacrifice himself and experience hardship for others’ sakes. Veterans displayed courage by being brave and tough and overcoming challenges. They sacrificed themselves by putting themselves in danger for others. They did this because they felt it was their duty. My grandfather, Joseph Del Busto, is an excellent example of a veteran.

My grandfather, now eighty-nine years old, emigrated from Cuba to the United States when he was merely sixteen years old. Then in 1943, before he was even an American citizen, he joined the army; he felt that it was his duty to serve America during World War II. Throughout his service, he had to make countless sacrifices, such as being away from his family for over three years. My grandfather courageously put his life in fate’s hands by going to war for the sake of those whom he did not know.

Veterans feel a sense of duty to go forth and sacrifice themselves. My grandfather says that it was “his duty to serve” America in the war. Knowing that war is dangerous and possibly life-threatening, an enormous amount of courage is essential. For example, London, which was only twenty miles away from my grandfather’s base, was being bombed daily. My grandfather showed great courage by carrying out his daily missions, despite the bombings.

On Veterans’ Day we must honor all veterans who did not let peril get in the way of their responsibility. Fighting for those you know is hard enough, but being willing to lay down your life for strangers must be nearly impossible. What an incredible sense of duty my grandfather must have felt to be willing to sacrifice himself without even being an American citizen.